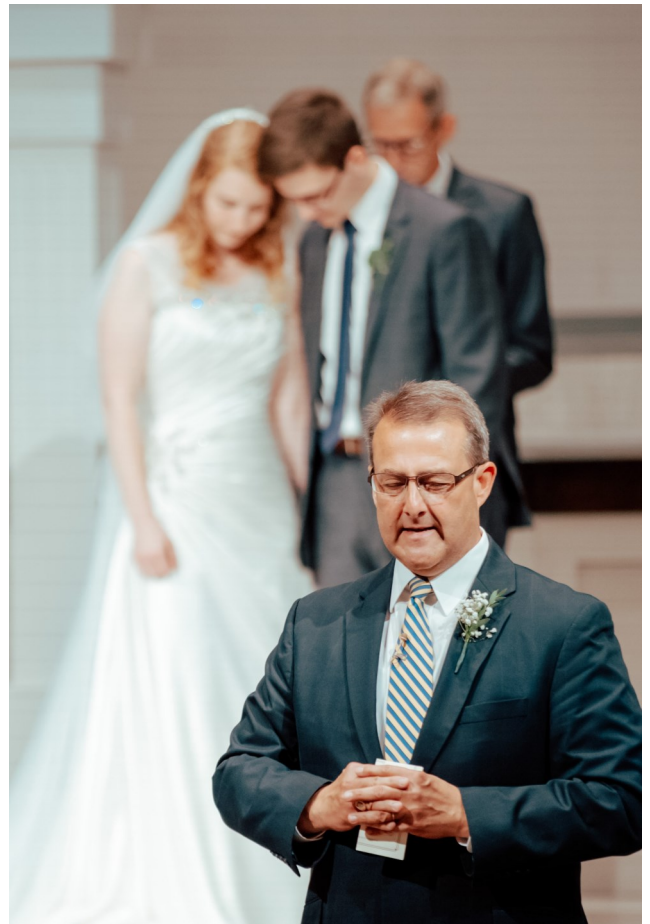


A lot has happened in the last couple of months so this letter is going to be longer than usual. Our original plan was to travel to the United States for our daughter Jessica's wedding and for our son Robert's wedding. Jessica and Nate were kind enough to schedule their wedding in Pennsylvania to be one week after our son's wedding in South Carolina. As the covid virus kicked in Jessica and Nate had to make a decision if they were going to have the wedding in the United States or not. There were two problems: The first problem was that if they went to the United States for their wedding, they may not have been able to return to Australia. The second problem was that Australia had put restrictions on people **leaving** Australia, so we all had to apply for exemptions to go to the States for Jessica's wedding anyway. (Even though we were all American citizens). After applying for the exemptions Jessica was told that they would not let her know if she could leave Australia until 48 hours before the scheduled flight of departure(!) Not knowing if they could travel or not, Nate and Jessica decided to have the wedding here in Brisbane.

Then Bonnie and I had to decide if we were going to go to the United States for our son's wedding. We had also planned to stay in the United States a couple of months to re-raise some lost support. But as many churches were not having meetings at the time and we would have to cross several state lines to have those meetings and in some cases have to quarantine, we prayed and made a decision not to go to the US also. It was a tough decision; it was particularly hard on Bonnie to not be able to attend our son's wedding. Weddings of our kids can be a source of great encouragement, knowing that we have put a lot of time and love into them and they have turned out to be what you raised them to be.

Robert's wedding was planned for July 18. Then on July 2nd Bonnie started to have chest pains return. You may recall from our last letter that Bonnie had already been through a time of surgery because of excruciating spinal pain (in March). Bonnie had returned to work, things were going well, but the chest pains were worrisome. There was no sign of a heart attack, blood pressure was okay, and cholesterol levels were all good. Nothing looked like heart problems. However, her GP wanted to make sure that there was no blood clot from the previous surgery, so sent her to the emergency hospital with a letter, asking Bonnie to be seen by a heart specialist. We believe God really worked on our behalf here, as she passed every test and there was no reason to pursue the heart any further, except that the doctors (for some reason) sought to continue the tests to eliminate all possibilities. Several times she was told and asked, "There's nothing to be seen in the previous tests, how did you get this far?" They finally decided to give her a stress test, which gave signs of some kind of heart struggle, so they went ahead and did an angiogram. After doing the angioscopy, they found the Bonnie had one artery 90% blocked. The doctor told us that it was bad enough that she could have gone to sleep and not have woken up. So on July 13th, Bonnie had heart surgery to put in a stint and open up the artery. She has been doing very well since. Our original flight to the United States was scheduled for July 6th. All this was going on when we would have been in flight to the US had we not made the decision to not go. Just luck? I don't think so.



Pastor Dave Neal praying at our son Robert's wedding in South Carolina.

We are so thankful for God's watch care over us.

We were able to watch Robert and Rebekah's wedding livestreamed from South Carolina. It was a beautiful wedding and we are thankful we were able to share in it. Some of our Aussie church folk here that Robert had grown up with joined us at 3 o'clock in the morning to watch. When Robert kissed the bride, we did a Mexican wave in our living room! Although we were absent, I asked our friends Pastor Dave Neal and his wife Sherry to stand in for us. Pastor Neal pastors the South Pointe Baptist Church in Anderson SC, which was our original sending church. South Pointe Baptist Church has stuck with us since 1988 when Bonnie and I were first married and sent out as missionaries. At our son's wedding, Brother Neal also prayed for the couple on our behalf.



Pastor Wayne Zimmermann presiding our daughter Jessica's wedding in Australia.

Then because we did not go to the United States, we had to get Jessica's wedding planned here in Brisbane. It was a great encouragement to Bonnie to be a part of putting together Jessica's wedding. We had to abide by a lot of restrictions, but we were able to have the wedding and invite friends to attend. People we have witnessed to for years came to the wedding and heard a very clear presentation of the gospel given by Pastor Wayne Zimmermann who did the ceremony for us. As I looked at the photographs of the weddings, I was reminded of the ongoing work of the Great Commission throughout the years that my family has had the privilege to be a part of. Wayne Zimmermann's marriage to his wife Jenny was officiated by my dad back in the 70's, when my dad and mom were serving here in Australia as missionaries. Brother Zimmermann studied for the ministry in the Bible Institute my dad and mom taught at, has remained faithful as a pastor, and now 40 years later was officiating my parent's granddaughter's wedding.

Last week I also had the opportunity to minister in the outback. A friend asked me to go along with him to help a farmer cull feral animals off of his 7000 acre property. Besides crops, the farmer was also raising sheep and cattle. During this time of drought many farmers are doing it tough, some just walking off the land and some taking (ending) their own life in desperation and depression. This farmer was a Christian, but his wife has recently been diagnosed with cancer and is having chemotherapy treatments. We had the opportunity to offer some words of encouragement to them while we were there.

Although these are certainly trying times and we are having to adjust in many ways, whether it be circumstances of the world, our own health, family adjustments, disappointments and changes, it is a wonderful thing to say that God is still in control and allows opportunity for us to share the gospel with others.

Some restrictions have been lifted in the last month and we have been able to return to our hired facilities for our church services. We look forward to getting back to evangelism in the community, and please pray for us as we desire growth of our church. We're still not sure when we can return to the Solomon Islands. We plan on returning as soon as the restrictions are lifted and borders are open there. There has been some progress on the radio station and the next step will be registering the station with the Solomon Island's Government.

Thank you again for your prayer and continued support, thank you to all of those churches and individuals that keep in touch by letter or postcard or phone calls, each one is very appreciated and encouraging. We especially appreciate those that kept in touch with us and encouraged us with our son's and daughter's weddings, and thank you for your kind empathy for us in these last few trying months.

It's a wonderful thing to have godly friends.

In the Saviour's hand,

Tim & Bonnie Meyer



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